



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

March 2, 2007

Historic Preservation  
& Museum Division

59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06106

(v) 860.566.3005  
(f) 860.566.5078

Mr. Nicole Dentamaro  
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc.  
54 Tuttle Place  
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

Subject: Telecommunications Facilities  
640 Hilliard Street  
Manchester, CT  
Optasite #999-0075 – Middle Turnpike

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office notes that the E.E. Hilliard Woolen Mill possesses historic and architectural importance and has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the proposed telecommunications facilities will effect the historic integrity of the E.E. Hilliard Woolen Mill. However, this office believes that the proposed actions will constitute no adverse effect upon this important industrial resource.

This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking.

This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer





STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife  
79 Elm Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Natural Diversity Data Base

February 5, 2007

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro  
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
54 Tuttle Place  
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

re: Optasite Telecommunication Facility at  
640 Hilliard Street in Manchester,  
Connecticut

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed Optasite telecommunication facility at 640 Hilliard Street in Manchester, Connecticut. According to our information, there are no extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at this project site. However we do have historic records of State Endangered *Tyto alba* (barn owl) from along the Hockanum River in this area of Manchester. I have sent your letter to Julie Victoria (DEP-Wildlife; 860-642-7239) for further review. She will write to you directly with her comments.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Environmental Protection's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,

  
Dawn M. McKay  
Biologist/Environmental Analyst

Cc: Julie Victoria, NDDB # 14995







STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



391 ROUTE 32  
NORTH FRANKLIN, CT 06254  
TELEPHONE: (860) 642-7239

April 12, 2007

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro  
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
54 Tuttle Place  
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

re: proposed Optasite Facility, 640 Hilliard Street, Manchester

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

Your request was forwarded to me on 4/4/07 from Dawn McKay of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. Their records indicate that there are historic records of a state endangered species, the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) in the vicinity of this project site.

Barn owls occur in low numbers in Connecticut because their habitat which is grasslands and farmlands are declining. Their main food source, meadow voles, mice and shrews, occur in open areas such as grassy fields, old fields and wet meadows. Any activities that decrease the open areas or destroy natural nesting sites in hollow trees will eliminate barn owls from an area. However, many habitat enhancements can be made to keep or encourage barn owls to nest in the vicinity. These activities range from erecting artificial nest structures, improving natural nests or increasing natural nest site availability. Barn owls nest from March through July.

Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have we seen detailed plans or timetables for work to be done. The location of work is described as an industrial property and a former woolen mill, however, past practices at a site do not preclude the existence of wildlife. If this work will be conducted in any barn owl habitat (grassy fields, old fields and wet meadows), the Wildlife Division recommends that an ornithologist familiar with the habitat requirements of this species conduct surveys. The Division recommends that surveys for barn owls be conducted during their nesting season March – July. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include habitat descriptions, bird species list and a statement/resume giving the ornithologist's qualifications. The Wildlife Division does not maintain a list of ornithologists in the state. The results of this investigation can be forwarded to the Wildlife Division and, after evaluation, recommendations for additional surveys, if any, will be made.

Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEP Wildlife Division should be requested. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Victoria  
Wildlife Biologist  
Franklin Wildlife Management Area  
391 Route 32  
N. Franklin, CT 06254

cc: NDDB – 14995



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April 16, 2007

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Ref: 40999.19


Ms. Julia Victoria, Wildlife Biologist  
Franklin Wildlife Management Area  
391 Route 32  
North Franklin, CT 06254

Re: NDDB - 14995  
Proposed Optasite Facility  
640 Hilliard Street  
Manchester, CT  
Optasite ID #999-0075

Dear Ms. Victoria:

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) is in receipt of your recent letter dated April 12, 2007 regarding your review of the above referenced wireless telecommunications facility project (a copy of your letter is attached). The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) records indicate that there are historic records of a state endangered species, the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), in the vicinity of the project site. VHB understands that barn owl habitat includes open grassy fields, old fields, and wet meadows. The project area exists entirely of gravel driveway/parking areas associated with the mill building and is immediately adjacent to a gasoline service station at the corner of Tolland Street and Adams Street. Existing condition photographs and Site Plans are attached. The proposed project will not occur within barn owl habitat (grassy fields, old fields, and wet meadows) as such habitat does not exist on or adjacent to the subject property. Therefore, the proposed project will not impact habitat of this state endangered species and no further investigation is recommended.

Very truly yours,

  
Dean Gustafson  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

54 Tuttle Place  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-1847  
860.632.1500 • FAX 860.632.7879  
email: info@vhb.com  
www.vhb.com